

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07682 301301Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 OPIC-03

IO-10 SSC-01 /079 W

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R 301213Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: TWO MINISTERS NAMED TO AZEVEDO CABINET

REF: 74 LISBON 3036 (DTG 190950Z JUL 74)

SUMMARY: COL JOSE AUGUSTO FERNANDES WAS NAMED MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AS SLOW-MOTION NEGOTIATIONS ON REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SHOWED SOME PROGRESS. LACK OF AGREEMENT ON ENTIRE RE-ORGANIZATION HAS NOT HAMPERED EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION: PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO ANNOUNCED DEC 29 THAT COL JOSE AUGUSTO FERNANDES HAD BEEN CHOSEN
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PAGE 02 LISBON 07682 301301Z

AS NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION REPLACING SOCIALIST (PS)

WALTER ROSA WHO WILL BECOME MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. ONLY CABINET-LEVEL VACANCY REMAINING IS MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS WHERE SA BORGES WAS OFFICIALLY RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITIES DEC 29 IN WAKE OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD). PPD SECRETARY OF STATE OF EMIGRATION RUI MACHETE IS LIKELY CANDIDATE TO REPLACE SA BORGES. NEXT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT ON CABINET WAS SET FOR JAN 5. PRINCIPAL STICKING POINTS ARE REPLACEMENT FOR COMMUNIST SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRARIAN ORGANIZATION ANTONIO BICA AND DISPUTE BETWEEN PS AND PPD OVER WHETHER PPD DISSIDENT ARTUR SANTOS SILVA SHOULD BE REMOVED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TREASURY.

2. FERNANDES BIO: AN ENGINEER COLONEL, FERNANDES SERVED AS MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECOND-FOURTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS (JULY 17, 1974 - AUG 8, 1975), WHERE HE ENJOYED EXCELLENT, PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION DESPITE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY GONCALVES GOVERNMENTS. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE APOLITICAL. (REFTEL CONTAINS ADDITIONAL BIO.)

3. GENSCHER VISIT: GOP ANNOUNCED VISIT OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO PORTUGAL FEB 5-6.

4. COMMENT: PS IS IN NO HURRY TO COMPLETE SLOW-MOTION REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT, SINCE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS ALREADY FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY, AND IT IS THE PPD WHICH IS INCONVENIENCED BY CONTINUED LACK OF AGREEMENT ON REORGANIZATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, GOVERNMENT REFORM, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON07682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-1219
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975125/aaaaadty.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LISBON 3036
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO MINISTERS NAMED TO AZEVEDO CABINET
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PO, (FERNANDES, JOSE AUGUSTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006